

A NEW FLINDERSIAN CHITON

By B. J. WEEDING

PLATE IV

[Read 11 April 1940]

In the Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasmania of March 1912 the late Dr. W. G. Torr described and figured as *Callochiton mayi* an *Acutoplax* collected by himself in a rock pool at Stanley, Tasmania.

In September of the same year he described, in Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust., another specimen under the same name, dredged by Sir Joseph Verco in Spencer Gulf, South Australia. This was done because the South Australian shell differed from the description he had given of the Tasmanian specimen.

The material collected in recent years proves that the two forms are specifically distinct, and the South Australian species is here described as:

***Acutoplax cottoni* n. sp.**

(Pl. iv, figs. 1, 1a)

Shell medium, elongated oval, very highly elevated, carinated. Colour usually pinkish with dark red splashes. Measurement of dried specimen, 13 x 7 x 5.5 mm.

Anterior valve—erect and smooth, except for growth lines. Median valves—lateral areas prominently raised, muscled but corrugated with growth lines and sprinkled with numerous small ocelli; pleural areas with ten or twelve short sulci partly crossing the area and becoming shorter towards the beak, making the jugal area triangular and smooth. Posterior valve—anti-mucronal area grooved, post-mucronal area raised and corrugated with growth lines.

Girdle, teeth and internal features generic. Gills—fourteen each side, extending from valve three to eight.

Station—Dredged in shallow water.

Habitat—Spencer Gulf and Gulf St. Vincent, South Australia.

The specimen described and figured was dredged from the Fisheries Launch "Whyalla" in Spencer Gulf, March 1938. It is named after Mr. Bernard C. Cotton, Conchologist of the South Australian Museum, whose unfailing courtesy and ready helpfulness make the study of our Molluscan Fauna a pleasure.

A few other specimens from South Australia, listed in the Museum Collection under the name of *Acutoplax mayi* Torr, are conspecific with the above.

All species of this genus are still very rare. They may be compared as follows:

Acutoplax mayi Torr (pl. iv, figs. 2, 2a), which is a Tasmanian species, is figured for comparison. It is less elevated, the sulci are fewer, wider and more



1



2



1a



2a

Acutoplax cottoni

Acutoplax mayi